

MTA-1004  
3 February 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- January 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The Hebrew and Turkish sections both contributed to FBIS' coverage of the fast-breaking hostage crisis in Iran. On the evening of 20 January the bureau wirefiled a flash message saying that Israeli news monitor [redacted] had reported ~~STAT~~ <sup>STAT</sup> in a Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew broadcast that the first of the Algerian airplanes transporting the hostages from Iran had departed Tehran airport. This was apparently the first report monitored by FBIS saying that the hostages had indeed been released by the Iranians. Later that evening, Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish, which at first said the hostages' aircraft would refuel at Ankara before flying on to Algiers, announced that the aircraft would not land in Turkey but, instead, would refuel in Athens. That report was apparently the first monitored by FBIS on the change in the refueling locale.

Because Israeli radio stations had been staying closely abreast of the developments which led to the filing of several flash messages in addition to that noted above, on 19 January headquarters asked the bureau to remain open past its normal 11.30 p.m. closing time to cover additional Jerusalem Radio newscasts.

Because of the hostage crisis the Persian section wordage jumped from 10,000 in December to 14,300 in January. The increase was due mostly to commentaries filed from the clandestine National Voice of Iran.

The hostage affair was not the only event that occupied the bureau during the month. The biggest Israeli domestic story, which was closely watched by embassy components, was the 18 January Israeli Cabinet decision to call for early Knesset elections, now set for 30 June.

Turkish section monitor [redacted] wrote a 43-page paper ~~STAT~~ <sup>STAT</sup> question-and-answer format, on the history of Turkey from the Ottoman Empire through the coming to power of Turkey's present military government. The paper will serve as background material for editors and monitors and aid in the staffers' understanding of current Turkish and eastern Mediterranean political, military and economic issues.

B. Communications

The bureau acquired another backup communications circuit when it finally succeeded in obtaining an outside telephone line which bypasses the embassy switchboard. Embassy power failures and an unreliable embassy emergency generator have resulted in the past in Tel Aviv's being unable to contact Washington or other bureaus to advise them of communication problems.

C. Technical

The bureau remote monitoring operation was expanded during the month with the installation of a second receiver at the Gal-on site.

Two Sony-320 receivers have been installed in the Hebrew booth, freeing two Collins receivers for use elsewhere.

II. ADMINISTRATION

[redacted] chief monitor, associate editor, and the bureau's lone Azeri monitor, resigned effective 31 January. Hence, on the 23rd the bureau ended coverage of the Azeri-language clandestine National Voice of Iran. Although "Hoca" will be leaving FBIS after more than 21 years of service, mostly at the old Medburo, he will not be far from FBIS. His retirement home will be in Caversham.

Turkish monitor [redacted] was promoted to Monitor Specialist I (FSN-9) during the month. STAT

III. VISITS

Duane Linville, incoming counselor for administration and LaRue Velott, outgoing counselor for administration, paid a courtesy call to the bureau on 30 January. Linville was briefed on FBIS operations and met bureau personnel.

IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

[ ] has replaced [ ] who will be STAT  
departing post in February, as the FBIS representative on  
the Post Housing Committee.

[ ] STAT  
Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachments: A. Production Report  
B. Filed Wordage Report  
C. Communications Report  
D. Semiannual Coverage Schedule